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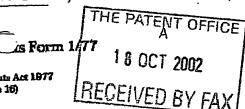
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Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part) 0224297.2

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IPWireless, Inc. 1001 Bayhill Drive, 2nd Floor San Bruno, California **CA 94066** 

Patents ADP number (If you know II)

8169401002

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

USA, Delaware

Title of the invention

# ARRANGEMENT AND METHOD FOR RF FILTER

Name of your agent (If you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent

(including the postcode)

Peter Hudson

inetiP 121 Bisckberry Lane Four Marks, Alton Hampshire GU34 5DJ

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## ARRANGEMENT AND METHOD FOR RF FILTER

### Field of the Invention

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This invention relates to RF (Radio Frequency) filtering, and particularly (though not exclusively) to such filtering in wireless communication applications.

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# Background of the Invention

Specifications (3GPP TS 25.105 v3.10.0, 'BS Radio Transmission and Reception (TDD)', hereinafter referred to as [1]) by the 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) set out the performance of TDD (Time Division Duplex) Node B (base station in a 3GPP system) equipment. These specifications cover the 'Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio' (ACLR) for Node Bs specified for equipment that is co-sited with other TDD or FDD (Frequency Division Duplex) Node Bs operating on adjacent channels.

For co-siting purposes, stringent specifications on the transmit spectral purity of UMTS TDD Node Bs call for a single channel RF filter to be fitted after the power amplifier (PA). The specification of the RF filter is also extremely stringent and a very high Q passive filter is required in order to achieve the required stop-band. By adopting an RF filter with such a steep roll-off factor, it is unavoidable that the filter has an effect on the transmit accuracy; in fact, the inclusion of

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this filter may cause the Node B to fail the transmit accuracy requirement.

Passive RF equalisation is not desirable due to the corresponding increase in the complexity of the RF filter and the fact the amplitude equalisation is not possible without increasing the insertion loss across the pass band. Analogue baseband equalisation is not desirable as the equaliser response needs to be matched to the RF filter to achieve optimum transmit accuracy and tuning baseband filters to match the RF filter, which in practice would have a significant impact on the production of the Node B.

15 A need therefore exists for digital pre-equaliser for RF filter wherein the abovementioned disadvantage(s) may be alleviated.

### 20 Statement of Invention

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In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a filter arrangement, for use in a wireless communication transmitter, as claimed in claim 1.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method, for filtering in a wireless communication transmitter, as claimed in claim 15.

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# Brief Description of the Drawings

One digital pre-equaliser, arrangement and method for RF filtering incorporating the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing(s), in which:

FIG. 1 shows a block-diagrammatic representation of an example transmitter architecture showing application of digital pre-equalisation;

FIG. 2 shows a graphical representation of the magnitude response of a single channel RF filter;

FIG. 3 shows a graphical representation of group delay improvement following introduction of a phase equalising digital filter;

20 FIG. 4 shows a graphical representation of an ideal modulation mask and RF filter amplitude roll-off;

FIG. 5 shows a graphical representation of an example of amplitude equalized RF filter;

FIG. 6 shows a block-diagrammatic representation of an example implementation of the digital pre-equalising FIR filter of FIG. 1.

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## Description of Preferred Embodiment(s)

The 3GPP specifications [1] referred to above cover the 'Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio' (ACLR) for Node Bs specified for equipment that is co-sited with other TDD or FDD Node Bs operating on adjacent channels.

ACLR is a measure of the ratio between the signal power transmitted in the desired channel of operation and the unwanted power transmitted in the channels adjacent to the desired channel. In the referenced version of the specifications, the adjacent channel power is specified as an absolute limit of -80dBm in a measurement bandwidth of 3.84MHz.

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This limitation is necessary to ensure that the transmission of a Node B in channel 'A' does not cause unacceptable interference to another Node B receiving in channel 'B' at the same time.

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In most Node Bs, the power transmitted in the adjacent channel is determined by the linearity of the power amplifier used in the Node B transmitter. With the PA technology available today, it is not possible to achieve these levels of adjacent channel power at typical Node B transmit powers levels. A brief example follows to illustrate this problem.

It is assumed that the adjacent channel transmissions are related to the level of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Order intermodulation products generated within the power amplifier. Taking an

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example Node B power amplifier with PldB equal to 44dBm, and output IP3 of +63dBm, the maximum wanted transmit power consistent with a -80dBm adjacent channel power will typically be of the order of +15dBm (31mW) for a CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) test signal. The power amplifier will dissipate close to 100W, representing a DC to RF power conversion efficiency of 0.03%.

In order to achieve the specified ACLR, it is clear from the above analysis that, for reasonable transmit powers, a narrow band RF filter is required.

Using the power amplifier in the previous example as a reference, the typical ACLR expected at a transmit power of +34dBm (2.5W) will be of the order of 55dB (or -21dBm absolute). With this level of adjacent channel power generated in the PA, the RF Filter is required to provide at least 60dB of protection to the adjacent channel.

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This is also an extremely difficult specification to meet and requires the use of very high Q dielectric resonators.

In the considered base station transmitter the RF filter must immediately follow the power amplifier, and as such the filter must be realised using analogue techniques. It is well known that analogue filters generally exhibit non-constant group delay, although it is possible to approximate constant group delay at the expense of a significantly relaxed roll-off rate. However, for co-

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siting purposes, a very steep roll-off rate is essential, resulting in conflicting requirements between pass-band group delay variation and rate of filter roll-off.

5 Non-constant group delay has a direct effect on the quality of the transmitted signal, as the different frequency components within the signal experience different delays as they pass through the filter. The result is that the RF filter introduces inter-symbol-interference (ISI) to the transmitted signal.

The technical specifications in [1] define 'Error Vector Magnitude' (EVM) as a measure of transmit accuracy. The EVM is a ratio of the ideal received signal compared to the actual received signal, expressed as a percentage. The reference signal is filtered twice by a 'square-root raised-cosine' (RRC) filter, once in the transmitter and once in the measuring receiver; therefore, provided that there are no signal impairments, the received reference signal should be ISI free. It may be noted that the receiver timing is optimised to minimise the EVM.

Simulations of the EVM obtained with the single-channel RF filter present have shown that the EVM is typically 17%. These examples only consider the EVM contribution of the RF Filter, the rest of the transmit line up to this point is not included in this calculation.

The 3GPP specifications [1] specify the maximum EVM to be 30 12.5%; therefore it is clear that, even though the

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presence of the RF filter is required by one part of the specification, it causes a failure in the EVM part.

Although RF analogue equalisation is possible, this
approach is not preferred for a number of reasons such as
increased size, cost, insertion loss and complexity.
Also, the analogue equalisation is optimised for the
centre frequency of the filter, and it will be seen below
that it is instead beneficial to optimise the
equalisation depending on the exact channel centre
required by the application.

In order to achieve a suitable analogue equalisation performance in order to obtain an acceptable EVM contribution from the RF filter, the passive equaliser will, typically, be almost as complex as the actual filter itself.

Another problem with the passive RF analogue equalisation approach is that it is not suitable for realising amplitude equalisations without increasing the insertion loss across the whole band of the filter. This is because passive implementations can only create attenuation, not gain.

Having ruled out passive RF equalisation, the designer is left with the possibility of baseband equalisation. This can be accomplished either with passive or active analogue baseband filters or with a digital filter. As will be explained in greater detail below, in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the

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digital filter solution is the only suitable solution in an application where the equalisation required will need to be optimised for each individual filter and where it will not be possible to tune analogue equalisers in a production environment. The digital equalising filter can be calculated by a computer program directly from a measurement of the RF filter to be equalised, thus having minimal impact on the production of the unit.

10 The channel centre frequencies in the UMTS radio interface are defined to be an integer multiple of 200KHz, however the 5MHz channel allocations are nominally defined between integer blocks of 5MHz, e.g., 1900MHz to 1905MHz. Obviously, the true centre frequency is 1902.5MHz in this example, which is not an integer multiple of 200kHz. The exact choice of the centre frequency is up to the operator or the licensing authority. For the example channel allocation, two possible centre frequencies are possible: 1902.4MHz or 1902.6MHz.

As RF filters are expensive and have long lead-time for supply, it is not desirable to have two different filters for each 5MHz block of spectrum. It is far more preferable to keep one filter in stock with the centre frequency at the true centre frequency. The consequence of doing this is that this centred filter will further degrade the transmit accuracy of signals centred on 1902.4MHz and 1902.6MHz.

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As will be explained below, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the amplitude equalising section of the digital pre-equaliser can be easily set up in manufacture to be optimised for the specific centre frequency. Also, if required, the coefficients can be changed remotely when the unit is in the field via software control to enable the unit to transmit on either of the channel centres.

- 10 Referring now to FIG. 1, a transmitter architecture 100 is designed for use in Node B equipment 200 of a TDD UMTS system (not shown). The Node B equipment is suitable for co-siting. It will be understood that co-siting covers:
  - a single antenna shared between TDD and FDD base stations
  - a single antenna shared between TDD and TDD base stations
- each base station having its own antenna, but multiple base station antennas occupying the same tower at the same cell site.

As will be explained in greater detail below, the transmitter architecture 100 incorporates digital preequalisation utilising the present invention. The transmit architecture 100 includes a transmit filter section 110, a digital pre-equaliser section 120, a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) section 130, a transmitter section 140, and a post-conversion RF single channel filter section 150. I (In-phase) and Q (Quadrature-phase) components of a modulated transmit signal are applied to respective root-raised-cosine (RRC)

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filters 112 and 114 in the transmit filter section 110; the RRC filters 112 and 114 have real filter coefficients. The outputs of the RRC filters 112 and 114 are applied to a series arrangement of first FIR (Finite Impulse Response) digital filter 122 and a second FIR digital filter 124; the FIR digital filters 122 and 124, which have complex filter coefficients, will be described in greater detail below. The I and Q outputs from the second FIR digital filter 124 are applied to respective analog-to-digital filters 132 and 134. The outputs of the ADC comverters 132 and 134 are applied to a transmit upconverter 142 to produce a single transmit output signal of upwardly-translated frequency. The output of the transmit up-converter 142 is applied to an RF singlechannel filter 152, to produce an accurate and highly band-limited transmit output signal T.

The function of the digital pre-equaliser section 120 is to correct for the non-ideal passband characteristics of the single-channel RF filter 152. These non-ideal characteristics can be resolved into two separate factors:

- Non-constant group-delay, which is equivalent to a non-linear phase vs. frequency response; group delay variation is a consequence of designing the filter with a very steep transition region using a reasonable number of sections, and
- Premature roll-off in the pass band of the signal a consequence of the filter design and practical
  realisation, i.e., a consequence of finite Q.

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Each factor can be considered individually.

Group delay equalisation is achieved by making use of the knowledge that a filter with symmetrical impulse response has the property of linear phase. Consequently, the FIR digital filter 122 is constructed to provide group-delay equalisation by filtering the signal with a time-reversed version of the impulse response of the RF filter 152. The impulse response is obtained by applying the inverse discrete Fourier transform on the measured frequency response of the RF filter 152.

A suitable equaliser is obtained by truncating and quantising the impulse response. All the necessary processing can be readily computed by a typical desktop computer. It will be understood that the exact signal processing scheme applied in order to correct the phase response of the filter is not critical, and a suitable signal processing scheme will be within the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.

FIG. 2 shows a graphical representation of the magnitude response of a single-channel, narrow-band RF filter used in a 1.9GHz UTRA Node B.

FIG. 3 shows the improvement in group delay by prefiltering the transmitted data signal with the digital FIR filter 122, the upper and lower lines indicating the

group delay with and without the pre-filtering

30 respectively.

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Although the phase-equalising filter 122 provides sufficient correction for the non-linear phase response of the RF filter, the resulting improvement in transmit accuracy (Error Vector Magnitude) becomes limited by the amplitude roll-off in the pass-band. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce a correction for the amplitude response.

For this reason the second FIR filter 124 is used, which attempts a correction for amplitude response without impacting the phase correction properties of the first FIR filter 122. This criterion implies that the second, amplitude-correcting filter 124 must be a symmetrical FIR filter and thus exhibit linear phase.

This second filter 124 can also be used to make additional corrections, by correcting for asymmetrical RF filter response around the desired RF channel centre

20 for centres offset from the true RF filter centre frequency by a small amount.

In the present example a single RF filter, centred on say 1902.5MHz, can be optimised separately for channel centre frequencies of 1902.4MHz and 1902.6MHz, thus reducing the number of alternative RF filter solutions required.

frequency, thus allowing one RF. Filter to be optimised

Being digital, the equalising filter 122 is programmable, providing the ability to optimise the filter response to permit a Node B to operate on either of these two

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frequencies in the field (e.g., via software control), without the requirement to change the RF filter.

- It should also be noted that the phase-equalising filter 122 also emphasises the amplitude roll-off of the RF filter as the signal is effectively filtered twice; therefore, the inclusion of the phase equaliser 122 increases the need for the amplitude equaliser 124.
- modulation mask (narrower shape) and the RF filter (wider shape). It may be noted that a 100KHz offset exists between the RF filter and the modulation, resulting in more attenuation on the low side of the modulation.
- Even though the amplitude roll-off is small (typically the RF filter has rolled off by 1dB at the 3dB points on the modulation mask) the effect on EVM is significant. Characterization of several RF filters has shown that applying only phase equalization results in EVMs around 8% (reduced from 17% for the un-equalized filter). Applying amplitude equalization can improve the error vector to an acceptable level of approximately 3%.
- To design the FIR filter 124, a 'least-squares' filter design program is used. Such a design program is readily available in commercial software, and need not be described in further detail. As the required equalization response is asymmetrical and most commercial FIR filter design tools produce real-valued symmetrical FIR structures, the filter is designed as a pass-band filter

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which is then down-convexted to a complex low-pass structure suitable for implementation in the transmit digital processing.

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5 FIG. 5 shows an example of the result obtained from the amplitude equalizer, the lower and upper lines indicating respectively filter response after phase equalisation only and after both amplitude and phase equalisation. As can be seen by comparing the two lines, a significant improvement in the pass-band flatness is achieved. 10

The overall filter is simply obtained by convolving the impulse response from the phase equaliser and amplitude equaliser. The length of the filter is optimised by selecting the N consecutive coefficients that contain the highest accumulated energy. The number of taps,  $N_{\ell}$ required is a function of the required equalisation accuracy.

- It will be understood that in the digitally pre-equalised 20 transmitter architecture 100 described above and shown shown in FIG. 1, because the digital FIR filtering 120 equalises for errors in the analogue single-channel RF filter 152, the RF filter 152 may be deliberately designed to roll-off in the pass-band of the desired signal in order to achieve a specified stop-band attenuation for a smaller, cheaper RF filter implementation.
- It will be understood that in the digitally pre-equalised 30 transmitter architecture 100 described above and shown

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shown in FIG. 1, the single-channel RF filter 152 is the final component in the transmit architecture. In a TDD system it is possible to use the RF filter 152 for both transmit and receive functions. Although the receive signal processing is not shown, the digital equaliser can also be used this context.

Unlike the fixed definition transmit filter (root-raised-cosine with roll-off factor of 0.22 in the case of UMTS), the digital pre-equaliser needs to be fully programmable; therefore its associated implementation complexity is high in terms of its gate-count. Therefore, in practice, steps need to be taken to reduce the number of gates required.

The number of gates required to build each FIR filter are related to the length of the filter (i.e., number of coefficients) and the quantisation of both the data path and coefficient values. Simulations can be used to determine the optimum filter length and coefficient

quantisation required based on a sample of RF filters.

By way of an example the response of several filters was measured and the appropriate equalisers were designed.

It was found that the impulse responses for all the filters tested was similar, therefore the size of the multipliers used to implement this filter could be optimised based on the magnitude of the expected value of the coefficients.

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FIG. 6 shows an implementation of the digital preequaliser section 120 based on the above example. As shown, the FIR digital filter (the overall filter, referred to above, obtained by convolving the impulse response from the phase equaliser 122 and amplitude equaliser 124) consists of 40 stages (of which six are shown). Each stage receives a 10-bit real value Re{x(n)} and a 10-bit imaginary value (Im{x(n)} representing the I/Q input signal x(n) to be filtered, and multiplies (in one of the multipliers 160) this received pair of values by a pair of values representing the real part Re{hea} and the imaginary part Im{ha} of a respective filter coefficient. The imaginary parts of the filter coefficients 1-40 are 5-bit values; the real parts of coefficients 1-15 are 5bit values, the real parts of coefficients 19-25 are 6bit values, and the real parts of coefficients 26-40 are 7-bit values. Consequently, the muliplier outputs of the stages produce pairs of 15-bit values (stages 1-15), 16bit values (stages 16-25), and 17-bit values (stages 26-40). The outputs of the multipliers 160 are combined in summer 170, whose output of a pair of 22-bit values is applied to a bit-select unit 180, which produces a pair of 10-bit output values representing the filtered I/Q signal.

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It will be understood that the exact number of bits used in the filter is not important, but that it is desirable for the number of bits used in the filter to be optimised to reduce the complexity.

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It will be appreciated that, in the application of the present example, the coefficients of the equaliser filter are complex rather than real-only, and that as a consequence the filter is more complex. A filter with complex input data and real-only coefficients has to implement the same filtering on both real and imaginary input data; hence two multiplications are required for each I and Q data pair. If the coefficients are complex, then each multplier has to be a full complex multiplier which results in four complex multiplications and two 10 summations for each I and Q data pair. Therefore it is a significant benefit in terms of the complexity of the filter if the number of bits in the multipliers are minimised. In this application, the degrees of asymmetry in the filter response are small; therefore the filter 15 coefficients can be optimised so that the largest coefficients are real. This allows the imaginary coefficients to be small and hence require a fewer number of bits. Also, only one part of the impulse response of the filter has coefficients with large magnitude; 20 therefore the size of the programmable filter can be optimised to the general form expected for the equaliser response. It may be noted that each RF filter may require a slightly different impulse response, and the number of bits assigned to easch section of the filter must take 25 this variance into account ...

It will thus be understood that there is an advantage to be had for a filter implementation which implements an asymmetrical amplitude and phase response by using a complex-coefficient filter and in which the coefficients

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themselves have been phase rotated to ensure that the largest coefficients are real; hence for relatively small amounts of filter asymmetry, the implementation complexity of the filter is minimised.

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It will be understood that the digitally pre-equalised RF filtering scheme described above provides the following advantages:

it enables 3GPP Node B co-location specifications to be met while providing both good transmit accuracy and acceptable ISI performance; and

it allows filter centre frequency to be field-tuned in software, permitting a basic RF single-channel filter to used with its centre frequency being field adjustable to a desired value centred on a UMTS channel.

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#### Claims

- A filter arrangement for use in a wireless communication transmitter, the arrangement comprising: means for receiving digital signals to be 5 transmitted; DAC means for converting the digital signals to analog signals; analogue channel filter means for filtering the analog signals: and - 10 digital pre-equaliser filter means coupled before the DAC means for filtering the digital signals, the digital pre-equaliser filter means being adapted to substantially correct for non-ideality in the analogue channel filter means. 15
- The filter arrangement of claim 1 wherein the preequaliser digital filter means comprises:
  means for substantially correcting for non-linear phase
   response in the analogue channel filter means; and
  means for substantially correcting for amplitude error
  response in the analogue channel filter means.
- 3. The filter arrangement of claim 1 or 2 wherein the pre-equaliser digital filter means comprises a finite impulse response (FIR) filter.
  - 4. The filter arrangement of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the analogue channel filter means comprises a narrow band RF filter.

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5. The filter arrangement of any preceding claim further comprising up-converter means coupled between the DAC converter means and the analogue channel filter means for providing upward frequency translation.

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6. The filter arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means is adapted to adjust to a desired value the centre frequency of the analogue channel filter means.

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- 7. The filter arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means is programmable.
- 15 8. The arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means has complex coefficients to provide asymmetric equalisation.
- The arrangement of claim 8 wherein the largest of
   the filter coefficients are real.
  - 10. The arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the analogue channel filter means has roll-off in the pass-band of the desired signal to achieve a specified stopband attenuation.
    - 11. The arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the arrangement is adapted for use in a received signal path.

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- 12. The filter arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the wireless communication system is a UMTS wireless communication system.
- 5 13. The filter arrangement of any preceding claim wherein the arrangement is adapted for use in a TDD wireless communication system.
- 14. Node B equipment comprising the filter arrangement 10 of any preceding claim.

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15. A method for filtering in a wireless communication transmitter, the method comprising:

receiving digital signals to be transmitted;
providing DAC means converting the digital signals
to analog signals;
providing analogue channel filter means filtering
the analog signals; and
providing digital pre-equaliser filter means coupled
before the DAC means to filter the digital signals,
the digital pre-equaliser filter means substantially
correcting for non-ideality in the analogue channel
filter means.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the pre-equaliser digital filter means:

substantially corrects for non-linear phase response in the analogue channel filter means; and substantially corrects for amplitude error response in the analogue channel filter means.

- 17. The method of claim 15 or 16 wherein the preequaliser digital filter means comprises a finite impulse response (FIR) filter.
- 25 18. The method of claim 15, 16 or 17 wherein the analogue channel filter means comprises a narrow band RF filter.
- 19. The method of any one of claims 15-18 further30 comprising providing up-converter means coupled between

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the DAC converter means and the analogue channel filter means to provide upward frequency translation.

- 20. The method of any one of claims 15-19 wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means adjusts to a desired value the centre frequency of the analogue channel filter means.
- 21. The method of any one of claims 15-20 wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means is programmable.
  - 22. The method of any one of claims 15-21 wherein the digital pre-equaliser filter means has complex coefficients to provide asymmetric equalisation.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the largest of the filter coefficients are real.

- 24. The method of any one of claims 15-23 wherein the analogue channel filter means has roll-off in the passband of the desired signal to achieve a specified stopband attenuation.
- 25. The method of any one of claims 15-24 further comprising using the DAC means, the analogue channel filter means and the digital pre-equaliser filter means in a received signal path.
- 26. The method of any one of claims 15-25 wherein the wireless communication system is a UMTS wireless communication system.

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- 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the method is performed in Node B equipment in the UMTS wireless communication system.
- 28. The method of any one of claims 15-27 wherein the wireless communication system is a TDD wireless communication system.
- 10 29. The method of any one of claims 15-28 wherein the step of providing the digital pre-equaliser filter means includes:

performing measurements of the analogue channel filter means, and

- automatically calculating on the basis of the measurements coefficients of the digital preequaliser filter means.
- 30. The method of any one of claims 15-28 wherein the step of providing the digital pre-equaliser filter means includes:

providing quantised filter coefficients of the digital pre-equaliser filter means based on the impulse response of the digital pre-equaliser filter means.

31. A filter arrangement, for use in a wireless communication transmitter, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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32. A method, for filtering in a wireless communication transmitter, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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#### Abstract

## ARRANGEMENT AND METHOD FOR RF FILTER

S An arrangement (100) and method for RF filtering in a
Node B of a UMTS TDD system by providing: a DAC converter
(130) converting digital signals to analog signals;
providing a narrow band analogue channel filter (150)
filtering the analog signals; and providing a digital
pre-equaliser FIR filter (120) coupled before the DAC
(120) to filter the digital signals, the digital preequaliser filter means substantially correcting for nonlinear phase response (122) non-ideality and amplitude
response non-ideality (124) in the analogue channel
filter (150).

This provides the following advantage(s):

it enables 3GPP Node B co-location specifications to be

met while providing both good transmit accuracy and

20 acceptable ISI performance; and

it allows filter centre frequency to be field tuned in

software, permitting a basic RF single-channel filter to

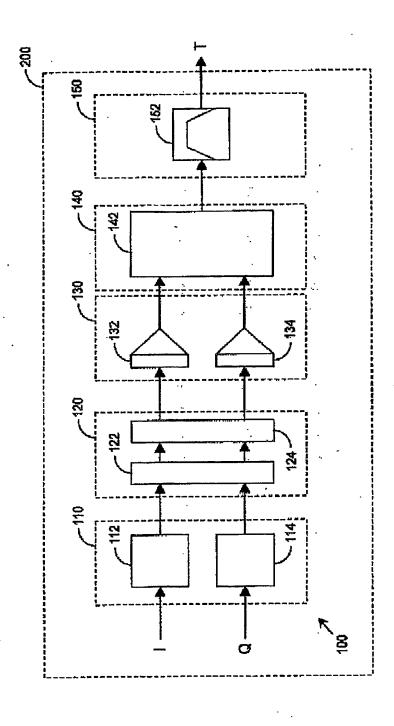
used with its cntre frequency being field adjustable to a

desired value centred on a UMTS channel.

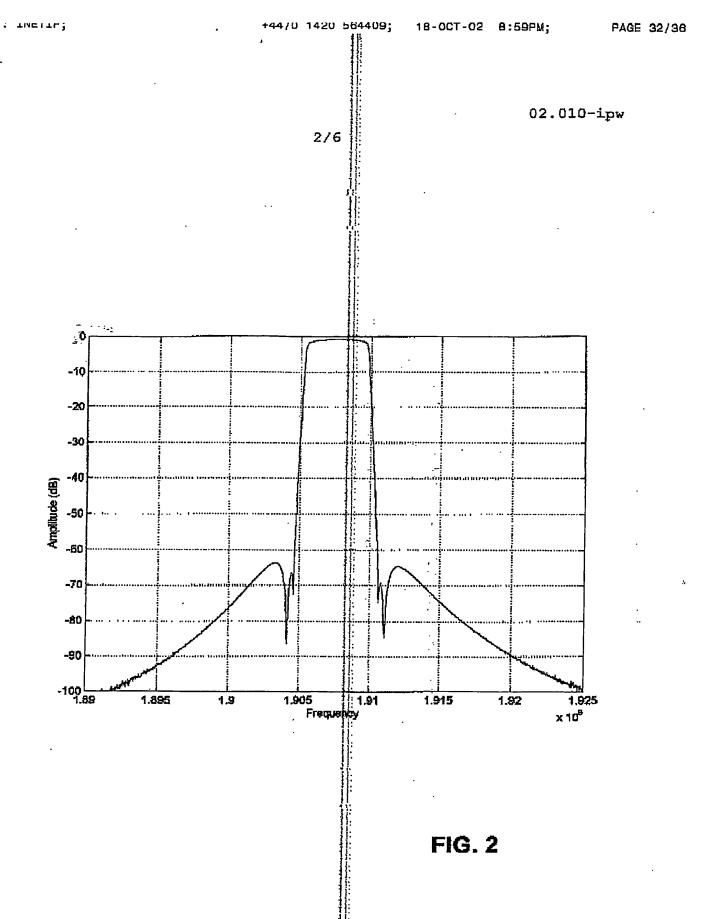
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(FIG. 1 to accompany abstract)

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FG. 7



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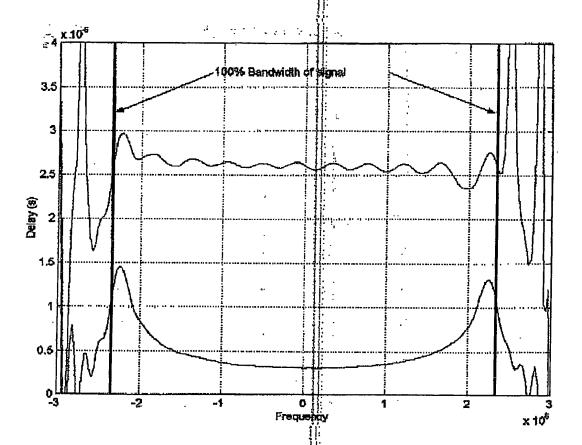


FIG. 3

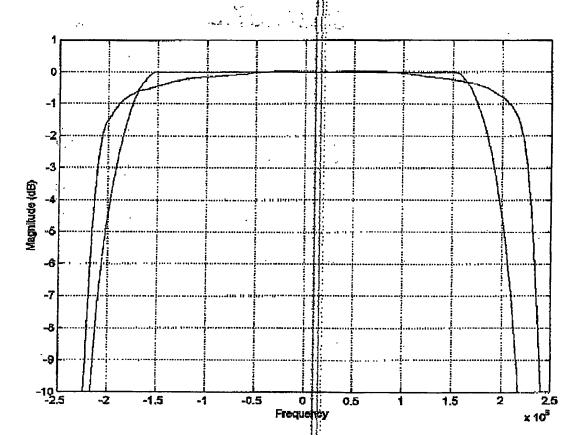


FIG. 4

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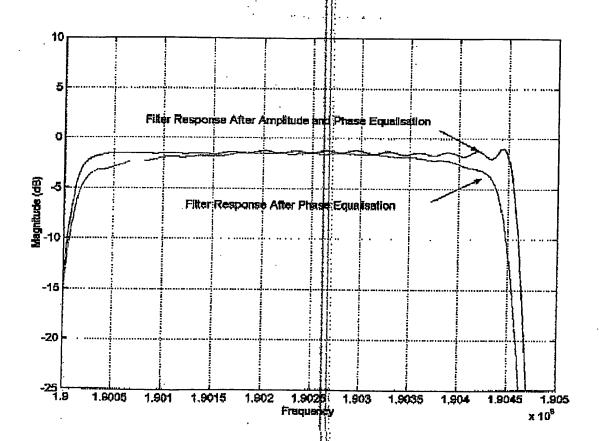


FIG. 5

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